



LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON HIV

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While not required of meeting participants, signing-in constitutes public notice of attendance. Presence at meetings is recorded solely based on sign-in sheets, and not signing-in constitutes absence for Commission members. Only members of the Commission on HIV are accorded voting privileges, thus Commissioners who have not signed in cannot vote. Sign-in sheets are available upon request.

JOINT PUBLIC POLICY (JPP) COMMITTEE EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES May 28, 2009

Approved
6/17/2009

MEMBERS PRESENT	PUBLIC	PUBLIC, CONT.	PUBLIC, CONT.	HIV EPI AND OAPP STAFF
Whitney Engeran-Cordova, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Karen Aguero	Kevin Kurth	Josh Riley	Michael Green
Lee Kochems, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Ana Aguirre	Bradley Land	Sonia Rivera	Sophia Rumanes
Kyle Baker	Traci Bivens-Davis	Jennifer Lee	Nick Rocca	Anna Soto
Jeffrey Goodman	Joseph Cadden	Nina Marks	Julian Sanchez	
Ted Liso	Tyrone Carter	Haydee Martinez	Stephen Simon	
Manuel Negrete	Fredy Ceja	Victor Martinez	Terry Smith	COMM STAFF/ CONSULTANTS
Ron Osario	Peter Cruz	Elizabeth Mendia	Lambert Talley	
Kathy Watt	Oscar De La O	Sonia Meyer	Beverly Thomas	Erinn Cortez
	Margo Edwards	Kathline Moessner	Nick Truong	Julie Cross
	Susan Forrest	Alva Moreno	Doris Wahl	Carolyn Echols-Watson
MEMBERS ABSENT	Thelma Garcia	Ruel Nolloedo	Yvette Wells	Jane Nachazel
	Terry Goddard	Trip Oldfield		Craig Vincent-Jones
Carrie Broadus	Rocio Hernández	Everardo Orozco		
Chris Villa	Jesse Hindstroza	Dean Page		
Kimberlee Woods	AJ King	Jose Paredes		

CONTENTS OF COMMITTEE PACKET

- Agenda:** Joint Public Policy (JPP) Committee Agenda, 5/28/2009
- Brief:** Los Angeles County, HIV Prevention Planning Committee, California Budget Impact, *ongoing*

- CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Engeran-Cordova called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**
MOTION #1: Approve the Agenda Order, as presented (*Passed by Consensus*).
- PUBLIC COMMENT, NON-AGENDIZED:** There were no comments.
- COMMITTEE COMMENT, NON-AGENDIZED:** There were no comments.
- CO-CHAIRS' REPORT:** There will be a Joint Commission and Prevention Planning Committee meeting to address the state budget crisis, 6/4/2009, 9:00 am to 1:30 pm, at St. Anne's Maternity Home. The Office of AIDS Policy and Programs (OAPP) will present on the effect of the state crisis on its budget at the meeting.
- GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE THE STATE OFFICE OF AIDS (OA):**
 - Mr. Engeran-Cordova noted that, as County bodies, the Commission and Prevention Planning Committee actions are more limited than those of individuals. This meeting is to inform and foster collaboration at all levels to the economic crisis.

- Mr. Vincent-Jones indicated that the last Policy Brief summarized the verbal intent of the State Department of Finance to withdraw all state funds from State Office of AIDS (OA). Federal funds could be lost if the federal Maintenance of Effort (MOE) is not met leaving approximately \$3 million in HOPWA funds. The Policy Brief will be updated as information is received.
- OA is prohibited from advocacy. They are engaged in contingency planning.
- The State's official releases have been fragmented. This week, the ADAP cut was reduced to about \$12.3 million leaving approximately \$80 million in general funds. That cut may still not meet MOE, which could result in the loss of Ryan White Part B funds which would be approximately one quarter of the ADAP funding. In turn, that would reduce funding from pharmaceutical rebates. There were no other changes in the proposed State cuts.
- Mr. Vincent-Jones emphasized that, in addition to services funding reductions, funding for surveillance was eliminated. Surveillance is required to meet CDC requirements and is the basis for all local Ryan White grants.
- It appears the \$12.3 million in proposed ADAP cuts is based on reducing the formulary. The State may change the formulary to only one drug per Anti-Retro Viral (ARV) class. This is the minimum required by Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA).
- Meanwhile, the Governor announced the state debt has grown by \$3.3 billion which will prompt additional cuts.
- Mr. Baker reported OAPP could lose \$5.3 million in state prevention funds. Counseling and Testing is funded by both the CDC and the state.
- Ms. Rumanes reported that about half of Health Education/Risk Reduction (HE/RR) programs are state-funded. Loss of those funds would affect programs for women, youth, Native Americans, African-Americans and Latinos. OAPP will review how to distribute remaining funds rather than eliminate these programs if state funds are lost. Research confirms that the infection rate rises when prevention efforts decrease, so it is assumed the County infection rate will rise if funds are cut.
- Regarding funding streams, OAPP receives prevention funds from the state, the CDC Master Agreement and Net County Cost (NCC). Care funds come from Ryan White Part B passed through from the state, HRSA and NCC.
- Mr. Vincent-Jones added there are Ryan White Part C agencies as well and all federal grants require MOE. There are also directly funded jurisdictions like Long Beach, which expects to lose all prevention funding.
- Beyond HIV/AIDS funding, Medi-Cal has suffered severe cuts including optional benefits like Denti-Cal. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) has been reduced with another reduction approved 7/1/2009 and a third anticipated. CalWorks, a \$5 billion program including federal matching funds, and Healthy Families are both scheduled for elimination.
- While there are cuts to other state services like education and parks, the bulk of cuts target health and social services. Mr. Vincent-Jones pointed out that this is the only safety net for PWH/A while other safety nets exist for other affected groups.

A. **Local Response/Action:**

- Mr. Nollado reported a Budget Conference Committee hearing 5/27/2009 with written public comments accepted until 5/29/2009. The fax number is 916.319.2199. He emailed a fax form for distribution. If that fax goes down, people may call him at 213.201.1378 for other fax numbers, email addresses or mailing information.
- Mr. Goddard said non-profits will be especially impacted and recommended all collaborate.
- Mr. Engeran-Cordova pointed out counties and cities will face trickle-down impacts. Ms. Watt added Los Angeles County will be impacted by people from areas with fewer services crossing borders to access what they need. Ms. Wahl noted Riverside County has lost so much funding that HIV/AIDS support was moved to San Bernardino County.
- ➡ Assign local legislative and the Governor's offices to various agencies and consumers and use a team approach as detailed under national actions.
- ➡ Media coverage is important. The original OA cut was \$120 million of a \$5.5 billion package of cuts. The *Los Angeles Times* had to be advised of it and even then it was poorly covered. Coverage of the Sacramento hearings was better, but only because some have pushed.
- ➡ Inform and recruit all constituencies like consumers, families and friends.
- ➡ A rally will be held on 6/5/2009, 5:00 to 7:00 pm at Hollywood Forever Cemetery on Santa Monica Boulevard west of the Hollywood/Western on-ramp. Mr. Nollado will speak to the owners and arrange the permit. Mr. Engeran-Cordova and Ms. Forrest will help get the word out.
- ➡ Ms. Watt will have poster boards and markers available for pick-up at Van Ness Recovery House Sunday after 8:00 am. She will bring leftover posters to the rally and will commit to bring 40 people. Mr. Land will start preparing posters in the San Gabriel Valley. Mr. Page will bring chalk for sidewalk outlines.
- ➡ Mr. Vincent-Jones will email a contact list and meeting notes on 5/29/2009 to help people organize. He will also prepare fliers for both rallies.
- ➡ Mr. Goddard, Executive Director, The Serra Project, said they will notify their HOPWA clients and will help with visits.
- ➡ Ms. Wahl, Inland Empire Planning Council, will work with Ms. Forrest to ensure information is distributed there.

B. Statewide Response/Action:

- Mr. Vincent-Jones reported a permit request had been filed for a 6/10/2009, 1:30 to 3:30 pm statewide HIV rally in Sacramento. It is being coordinated by conference call as a coalition of the willing.
- Mr. Engeran-Cordova said legislators hear so many concerns it would help to offer solutions. Mr. Land suggested taxes on liquor and snacks. There was a suggestion to identify most critical services, but others noted difficulty in doing so. The Black Los Angeles AIDS Consortium did develop priorities for a continuum of care on 5/27/2009. Mr. Vincent-Jones felt it risky to identify priorities now since they could be taken as a license to cut.
- On-going collaboration was suggested for long-term solutions, such as changing Proposition 13 to differentiate residential from business property taxes, ending term limits and changing the two-thirds requirement to pass a budget.
- Mr. Vincent-Jones noted the State's fiscal year starts 7/1/2009. Funds are expected to run out in July. While long-term thinking is critical, there is no time now. The budget is in Conference Committee bypassing Senate and Assembly discussion. Decisions will be made starting 6/9/2009. The Legislature will vote; then the Governor signs.
- Ms. Mendia suggested flash mobs highlighting poverty issues.
- Mr. Talley recommended coordination with Proposition 8 supporters, so we are not fighting for media coverage.
- ➡ Collaborate with faith-based and other organizations which target services for the disadvantaged.
- ➡ Collaborate with organizations that serve other impacted health populations like diabetics.
- ➡ Rooms are being reserved in the Capitol for legislator advocacy after the 6/10/2009 Sacramento rally. Speaker of the House Karen Bass will be invited. She is already supporting interest-free short-term federal loans to help.
- ➡ Coordinate 5 to 10 buses from the Los Angeles area. Other areas like San Francisco are planning buses, too. Each carries 55 people and costs about \$5,000 for bus, driver, gas and food. The ride will be free. They will leave about 4:00 am and return about midnight. Mr. Nollado said the Southern California HIV/AIDS Coalition (SCHAC) will donate a bus.

C. National Response/Action:

- Mr. Goddard asked if federal President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) funds for global HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria could be diverted to ADAP.
- Mr. Simon said the potential loss of federal matching funds is critical. Mr. Engeran-Cordova felt the issues are linked especially since California represents 10% of the U.S. population and a major aspect of the national economy.
- Mr. Vincent-Jones said the federal response is important and, in fact, may support the Governor's strategy by increasing federal pressure. He recommended equal targeting representatives from both parties at all government levels, as allies need support to stand for HIV/AIDS in this crisis and others need to be advised how serious this is.
- Ms. Cross said Jeff Crowley, Director, Office of National AIDS Policy, is aware and has been in contact with people here. Ms. Cross and Mr. Baker will meet with him 6/1/2009. Mr. Baker added they will be meeting with County legislators' staff offices. Some have proactively contacted him, so voices are being heard especially consumer stories.
- Mr. Engeran-Cordova said there are 55 members of Congress from California. They should be able to seek some relief.
- Ms. Watt underlined the dire effect on social service agencies and nonprofits. She suggested a collective report on the cost to other services like emergency rooms and police if they are undermined. Non-profits are already under strain because the economy has reduced donations and increased need.
- Mr. Engeran-Cordova noted California contributes more to the federal government in taxes than it receives back.
- ➡ Use the strategy previously used for reauthorization. Join with other state areas to assign local congressional offices and assign each a team leader, prepare materials and schedule appointments. Make the Stimulus Act argument. Mr. Vincent-Jones will coordinate the list and materials. Team leaders will recruit the team including consumers.
- ➡ Prepare templates in English and Spanish for consumer calls to their congressional offices.
- ➡ Coordinate advocacy with cities, counties, health districts and providers.
- ➡ Coordinate with San Francisco to contact the Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi. Also contact Barbara Lee, Chair, Congressional Black Caucus.
- ➡ Research issues other states have and coordinate with them.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** There were no announcements.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.